

9 State of North Carolina Gaston County

In the Name of God Amen I Stephen Black being of Sound mind and Knowing that god <sup>has</sup> ordained that all men must die do make and declare this my Last will and Testament first comm-  
- it my Soul to The Almighty God from whence it come and my Body to be Burryd in a secret manner

2 I Bequeith unto my wife Elizabeth all my personal property and the tract of Land whereon I now ~~live~~ reside during her Natural life or widow-  
- hood after her death or Marriage The above named tract of Land is to de-  
- scend to my Son Joseph and the personal property to be Equally Divided amongst  
the following heirs to wit Lawson Benage Samuel Joseph Esther & Ephraim

3 I bequeith unto my Son Ephraim the tract of Land known as the Lawson Warlick  
tract

4 I Bequeith unto me Sons Joseph & Ephraim and my Daughter Esther the amount  
of money due me from Jonathan Anthony to be Equal divided amongst The 3 aforesaid  
heirs

5 After the Death of my Son Lawson if he Should die without any Bodily heirs  
the two Negroes and their Increase if any to be equally divided Between Benage  
Samuel Joseph Ephraim & Esther and if Lawson Should have any Bodily heirs they  
are to have an Equal part

6 All Sums of money or other Estates that is due me or may hereafter become  
me shall be Equally divided amongst The above mentioned heirs

4 I bequeath unto my Son Joseph & Ephraim and my Daughter Esther the amount  
of Money due me from Jonathan Anthony to be Equal divided amongst The 3 aforesaid  
heirs

5 After the Death of my Son Lawson if he Should die without any Bodily heirs  
The Two Negroes and their Increase if any to be Equally divided Between Benjamin  
Samuel Joseph Ephraim & Esther and if Lawson Should have any Bodily heirs they  
are to have an Equal part

6 All Sums of money or other Estates that is due me or may hereafter become  
me Shall be Equally divided amongst The above mentioned heirs

7 If any of the within named heirs Should die without Bodily heirs any or all The  
Bequest Shall accrue to The heirs named in This Will Equally

As To my Daughter Barbara Stroup and Mother Stroup I have  
Given them all that Ever I Intend to Give Them. Given under my hand

and Seal 1 day of May 1853

W I do nominate and appoint  
Lawson Black & Samuel Black my Sons  
my Executors

Witness Saml Black Jurat  
Gideon Anthony Jurat

Stephen Black (Seal)